

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, beginning at line 26 with the following paragraph:

With this construction, the two cross frames 59 and 60 extending between the right and left elongate frame members 4 reinforce the rear region of vehicle frame 6 to which the backhoe 3 is attached. A horizontal frame portion 62 between the connecting bracket 10 and a connecting position 61, to which the rear cross frame ~~52~~ 59 is connected, of each of the right and left elongate frame members 4 acts as a flexible structure portion relatively freely and elastically deformable. The elastic deformation of the frame portion 62 absorbs the overloads occurring when the tractor runs with the backhoe 3 attached or during an excavating operation with the backhoe 3, thereby suppressing transmission of the overloads to the rear axle unit 9. As a result, an enlargement and increased manufacturing cost of the rear axle unit 9 may be effectively avoided. Such drawbacks could be encountered where the rear axle unit 9 and the like must be reinforced substantially if such overloads were transmitted as they are to these components.